



COMSTOCK COMMUNICATOR

We Are Purpose Driven

A monthly publication

December 2010

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD ON THE MOVE!

A big thank you to all the families who packed shoeboxes with toys, supplies and love for desperately needy children who have never heard the Gospel. They will now, thanks to your efforts! Each will receive a Bible storybook in their own language, as well as an invitation to attend discipleship classes - and vast majority will do so.



I delivered 17 shoeboxes to Grace Spring Church, and then stayed

for a couple hours helping them fill shoeboxes from the many hundreds of donated items they'd received. Cartons overflowed with crayons, hair accessories, toothbrushes, toy cars &

trucks, Beanie Babies, candy and much, much more. I had so much fun, it felt like Santa's workshop!! When I saw the hundreds of crates stacked up, ready to be loaded into a semi headed for Boone, NC, to combine with thousands of others for shipment all over the world, I was awed and realized anew what a privilege it is to be a part of this wonderful ministry!

Special points of interest:

- *Thoughts from our pastor*
- *Library News*
- *Vision Team Plan*
- *FYI*
- *Enjoy the kid's page*
- *Look for when you're scheduled in December to volunteer*

Books for Preschoolers

The Comstock Public Schools and the Comstock Community Center have formed a partnership to implement programs for families in our community that are designed to focus on the needs of children from birth to age 4. One of these programs is a free pre-school for 4 year olds. According to Wendy Dillworth, coordinator for ComstockKares, most of these preschool-

ers do not have access to books in their homes. Most do not have a book to call their own and clearly most are not being read to on a regular basis - if at all. Sound implausible? Unfortunately, it is a reality.

Currently, there are approximately 250 preschoolers in this program. The Evangelism Team is on a mission - to put a brand new book

in the hands of each child.

Beginning next week Sunday, December 12, you will find a collection site here at church for pre-school age appropriate books. We will collect books through Sunday, January 2nd. Many of us know what happens when you give a mouse a cookie. Let's find out what happens when you give a child a book of their own.

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Thoughts from Pastor Ben

First, I offer this meditative poem for the season from poet John Betjeman.

*And is it true? And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's
hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for
me?...*

*No love that in a family dwells,
No caroling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with the single Truth
compare -
That God was Man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine*

Second, I offer this instruction for the Advent season.

“Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him.”

Psalm 37.7a

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Ben



SEE WHAT'S NEW IN THE LIBRARY!

Along with the many Christmas books, CDs, and movies, look for the following new material this month:

BOOKS:

Snow Day by *Billy Coffey* - A charming story about a day in the life of Peter Boyd who, although he is very worried about his job, has taken off from work due to an overnight snowstorm. He does brave the snow to venture into town, and the people he encounters there, as well as his own family at home, teach him some valuable, unexpected, and much-needed lessons. Coffey's writing style is both lyrical and amusing, and by the end of the book you, like Peter, will reaffirm that faith is worth having and your worst fears are no match for an astounding, loving God.

Christmas Carols for a Kid's Heart by *Joni Erickson Tada and Bobbie Wolgemuth* - Children and adults

alike will enjoy this combination book/CD, a collection of 12 classic Christmas carols to sing along with, as well as the history of each. With richly orchestrated music, true stories about the writing of the hymns, prayers, and Scripture, this book will satisfy your Christmas longings, feed your souls, and provide a rich Christmas tradition for the whole family to enjoy.

Unlocked and **Shades of Blue** - two wonderful new *Karen Kingsbury* stories dealing with autism and past regrets, and no one deals with contemporary issues or issues of the heart in a more effective or enthralling manner than this author!

DVDs:

"Amish Grace" - Based on the true story that shook



Check out the new library material today!

the nation several years ago, when a gunman entered an Amish schoolhouse and took the lives of five Amish girls in Pennsylvania. Kimberly Williams-Paisley plays the mother of one of the girls dealing

with this tragedy. This poignant film is a moving testament to the power of forgiveness.

"Jesus - Legend or Lord" - Dr. Paul Maier takes us on a journey back to the time of Christ, St. Paul, and the early Christian church. Using the 3-pronged approach of Archeology, Geography, and History/Politics, he presents fascinating, additional details to the Scriptures, which enhance our understanding of the Word and enforce the truth of many of the biblical events. Holds your attention throughout the entire journey!



Here's the Plan

Life requires a lot of planning. Many of us wouldn't last long without our day planners. We participate in insurance plans, 401K Plans, and various pension plans. How's your cell phone plan working out for you? Coaches draw game plans, brides make wedding plans, pilots file flight plans, teachers construct lesson plans, and college students select the meal plan that best suits their needs. Who would build a house without designing a great floor plan? Did you lose any weight on that popular diet plan? Governor-Elect Rick Snyder campaigned on the promise of a plan to turn Michigan around. Nearly every city, village, or township has a planning commission. Sometimes we turn to the professionals for financial planning and estate planning. The good folks at Langelands urge us to consider pre-paid funeral planning. Is strategic planning the best planning? Sometimes, you need more than just a plan. You need a back-up plan or Plan B.

For the past 16 months the Vision Team has been meeting



regularly, and yes, we have been planning. Yes, we have required others to plan as well. Each of the ministry teams: Fellowship, First Impressions, Education, Building, Boosters, Worship, and Evangelism have created a purpose statement. Each ministry team has set goals, and each team

has spelled out how they plan to reach those goals. Remember the Community Work Day that took place in early November? It was the result of the Evangelism Team's goal to become more visible in the community and to introduce our church to our neighbors.

Perhaps the Vision Team is a Planning Commission of sorts – evaluating where we are as a church and how best to accomplish all that God desires for us and from us. The Vision Team will soon begin compiling the documents of the various ministry teams and submitting everything to Council for approval. Eventually, the current Vision Team will be reduced in size and established as a standing committee. The Vision Team will continue to oversee

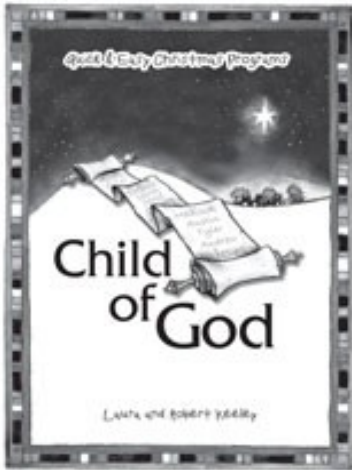
the ministry teams, checking their progress, offering encouragement, and maintaining a level of accountability. Vision Statements are not to be left on a shelf and forgotten. Vision statements must be *working* documents.

While we're on the subject of plans, let's think about the one that really matters – the plan that we need to share with our neighbors. The one that is outlined so succinctly in John 3:16.

*For God so loved the world that
He gave His one and only son,
that whoever believes in Him
shall not perish but have eternal
life.*

This month we celebrate the birth of the Jesus – our salvation plan. Enrollment is open; premiums have been paid; benefits are endless. The Vision Team thanks all the various ministry teams who are working diligently and capably to make this plan available just for the asking.

Judy Joling



December 12 - Everyone is Invited

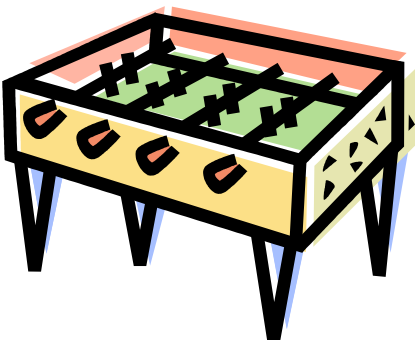
Come at 5:00 for the Sunday School
Christmas program.

Stay after the program for a supper supplied
by the Fellowship Team.

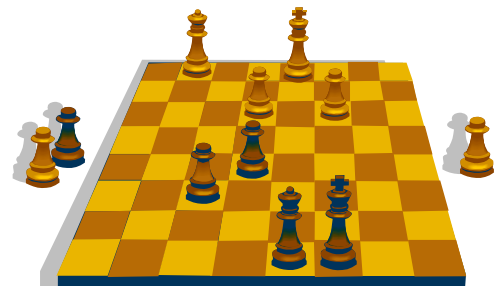
Come celebrate the birth of Jesus with our children
leading us in praise and then stay after
for supper and fellowship.



Christmas Cards for our church family can
be dropped in the bag in the narthex by the
morning of December 19 for the Youth
Group to sort and deliver.



Everyone is invited to a New Year's Eve Game
Night on December 31
from 6-10 PM. Come for
supper and games!
More information will be
provided soon.





Christmas Treasure from Trash

You can make pretty Christmas ornaments from old Christmas cards.

You will need:

- * old Christmas cards
- * scissors
- * glue
- * 3" or 4" circle pattern (cut from cardboard or just trace a coffee cup)
- * hole punch
- * yarn and ribbon
- * glitter
- * trims — rick-rack, ribbon, sequins, beads

How to do:

Trace the circle on two cards. Cut out and glue the backs of the cards together.

Decorate the edges of the cards with glue and glitter or scraps of ribbon.

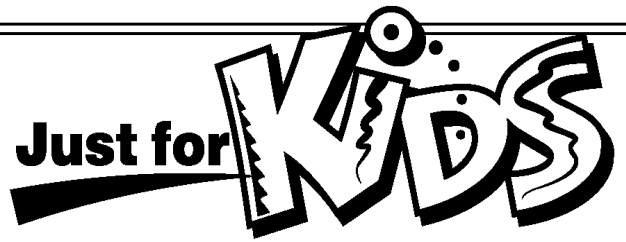
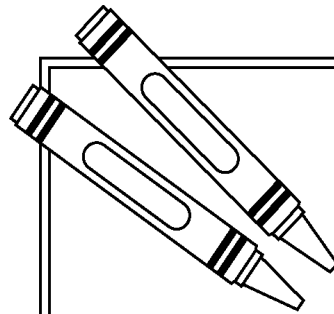
Punch a hole in the top.

Insert a piece of yarn or ribbon.

You may also make small ones for gift tags.

Just cut your circles smaller.

Leave the back white and write "To:" and "From:" on it.



Telling the Christmas Story

These words are all part of the Christmas story. First, find them in the puzzle below. Circle them. You may find them → ← ↗ ↘ ↙ ↘ ↕ ↖. There will be 12 letters that remain uncircled. Write them in the order found on the lines below. You will find a special Christmas message! Then use the words from the list to tell the story to someone!

joy	hay	men	inn	wise
Lord	star	baby	king	east
Mary	gold	angel	taxes	Jesus
sheep	myrrh	three	manger	Savior
donkey	Caesar	Joseph	birthday	Messiah
shepherds	frankincense	Bethlehem	Augustus	

B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	P	S	M	A	R	Y
I	A	N	G	E	L	E	G	O	L	D	E	C	A	E
R	C	B	J	S	M	Y	R	R	H	R	S	A	E	K
T	J	O	Y	E	H	E	T	S	A	E	S	E	M	N
H	T	A	X	E	S	E	N	O	I	H	I	S	A	O
D	A	G	N	I	K	U	E	N	N	P	A	A	N	D
A	E	Y	W	R	A	T	S	P	N	E	H	R	G	R
Y	A	U	G	U	S	T	U	S	T	H	R	E	E	O
F	R	A	N	K	I	N	C	E	N	S	E	A	R	L
R	O	I	V	A	S	R	T	H	J	O	S	E	P	H

“ _____ ”

Answer: Peace on Earth

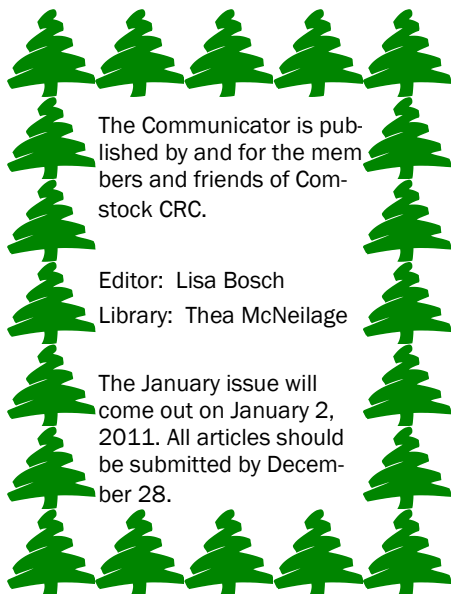


Happy Birthday

- 2 Dale Cramer
Lexie Hinds
- 6 Karen Smit
- 8 Betty Tuinier
- 12 Meredith Gano
- 19 Linda Hinds
- 20 Chris Selles
- 26 Marge Cramer
- 28 Mikayla Tiesman
- 29 Ann Cramer (97)
Ann Triemstra
- 30 James Karsten

Happy Anniversary

12/2/93 Todd & Karen
Triemstra



The Communicator is published by and for the members and friends of Comstock CRC.

Editor: Lisa Bosch
Library: Thea McNeillage

The January issue will come out on January 2, 2011. All articles should be submitted by December 28.

NURSERY

AM

- 5 Leah Brower & Megan Nowak
- 12 Dwain & Becky Cramer Family
- 19 Don & Barb VanderLugt Family
- 24 - Christmas Eve Service - need volunteers please - talk to Lisa Bosch
- 26 Mike & Dawn Kersten Family

PM

- Allison Bosch
- Cindy Amos
- Ronda Slager
- Julie Smit

OFFERINGS

AM

- 5 Comstock Ministries/Chr. Ed.
- 12 Comstock Ministries/Benevolent
- 19 Comstock Ministries/Chr. Ed.
- 24 Christmas Eve Service - CRWRC
- 26 Comstock Ministries/Chr. Ed.

PM

- Gospel Mission
- Christian Education
- Kal. Deacons Conference
- Benevolent

WELCOME CENTER

- 5 Tom & Ann Triemstra
- 12 Mike & Margaret Harris
- 19 Roger & Chris Selles
- 26 Todd & Karen Triemstra

LIBRARIANS

- 5 & 12 Marge Cramer
- 19 & 26 Muriel Cramer

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

- 5 Kelly Hulst and Morgan French
- 12 Kelly Hulst and Abigail Triemstra
- 19 Leah Brower and Molly Selles
- 26 Leah Brower and Allison Bosch

TECH TEAM

- 5 Jim & Tina Slager
- 12 Mark & Matt Terpstra
- 19 Scott & Seth Brower
- 24 Scott & Seth Brower
- 26 Jim & Tina Slager



December 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 GEMS & Cadets	2	3	4
5 6:15 YPS Molly has supper	6	7	8	9 7:00 Praise Team practice	10	11
12 9:30 Communion 5:00 SS Christmas program followed by supper for everyone	13	14 7:00 Council	15 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 GEMS & Cadets	16 7:00 Praise Team practice	17	18
19 3:30 YPS card sorting and caroling	20	21	22 8:30 Fellowship Breakfast at Theo & Stacy's restaurant	23	24 6:00 Christmas Eve Service	25 Happy Birthday Jesus
26 5:00 Old Year's Communion Service	27	28 7:00 Elders & Deacons	29 YPS Movie Night	30	31 New Year's Eve Game Night	